

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A printing system, comprising:

~~a network;~~

a plurality of printers, each of said plurality of printers ~~being configured to be~~ connected with ~~the~~a network;

a plurality of client devices, each of said plurality of client devices ~~being configured to be~~ connected with the network and configured to generate printing data for printing and header information for the printing data, according to an instruction of a user of the system, wherein said header information includes,

at least a user ID of user,

a printer ID of one of the plurality of printers for printing the printing data, and

a printing condition specifying printing functions of the printer used for printing the printing data with the printer; and

a print restriction server configured to register, for each user ID, print restriction information including a printer ID of each printer usable by a user of said each user ID, printing functions of the printer usable by the user of said each user ID,

to issue a ticket allowing use of the printer of the printer ID included in the header information based on the header information received from each client device, and

to transmit said ticket allowing use of the printer of the printer ID included in the header information to the client device,

wherein each of the printing functions specified by the printing condition in the header information is included in the print restriction information registered for the user ID included in the header information,

wherein upon receipt of the ticket from the print restriction server, each client device is configured to generate a printing request including the printing data, the header information, and the received ticket,

wherein each client device is configured to transmit the printing request to the printer of the printer ID included in the header information, and

each printer is configured to execute, when the printing request is received and if the ticket is included in the received printing request, a printing operation to print the printing data included in the received printing request.

2. (Original) The printing system according to Claim 1,

wherein each printer is configured to authenticate the ticket included in the received printing request and to execute the printing operation when the ticket is authenticated.

3. (Original) The printing system according to Claim 1,

wherein the print restriction server is configured to encrypt the issued ticket before transmitting the ticket to the client device, and

wherein each printer is configured to decrypt the received encrypted ticket before executing the printing operation.

4. (Original) The printing system according to Claim 1,

wherein the print restriction server is configured to assign an individual number to each ticket when issuing the ticket.

5. (Original) The printing system according to Claim 4,

wherein the print restriction server includes a random number generating device, and

wherein the random number generating device issues a random number for the individual number of each ticket.

6. (Currently Amended) A printing system, comprising:

~~a network;~~

a plurality of printers, each configured to be connected with ~~the~~a network;
a plurality of client devices, each configured to be connected with the network and configured to generate printing data for printing and header information for the printing data according to an instruction of a user of the system, the header information including

a user ID of the user,

a printer ID of the printer for printing the printing data, and

a printing condition specifying printing functions of the printer used for printing the printing data with the printer; and
means for registering print restriction information for each user ID, the print restriction information including

a printer ID of each printer usable by the user of the user ID, and
printing functions of the printer, usable by the user,

and for issuing and transmitting, in response to the header information received from each client device, a ticket allowing use of the printer of the printer ID included in the header information, to the client device, when each of the printing functions specified by the printing condition in the header information is included in the print restriction information registered for the user ID included in the header information,

wherein each client device is configured to generate, after receiving the ticket from the means for registering print restriction information and for issuing and transmitting the ticket, a printing request including the printing data, the header information, and the received

ticket, and to transmit the printing request to the printer of the printer ID included in the header information, and

wherein each printer is configured to execute, when the printing request is received and if the ticket is included in the received printing request, a printing operation to print the printing data included in the received printing request.

7. (Previously Presented) A method of printing a printing data in a printing system including a plurality of printers, the method comprising the steps of:

generating the printing data and header information for the printing data with an issuing client device, according to an instruction of a user of the system, the header information including a user ID of a user, a printer ID of one of the plurality of printers for printing the printing data, and a printing condition specifying printing functions of the one of the plurality of printers used for printing the printing data with the printer;

registering, for the user ID, print restriction information including a printer ID of each printer usable by the user of the user ID, and printing functions of the printer, usable by the user, at a print restriction server;

issuing, by the print restriction server, in response to the header information received from each client device a ticket allowing use of the printer of the printer ID included in the header information, and

transmitting the ticket to the issuing client device when each of the printing functions specified by the printing condition in the header information is included in the print restriction information registered for the user ID included in the header information;

generating by the issuing client device, after receiving the ticket from the print restriction server, a printing request including the printing data, the header information, and the received ticket, and transmitting the printing request to the printer of the printer ID

included in the header information; and

executing a printing operation at the printer, when the printing request is received and if the ticket is included in the received printing request, to print the printing data included in the received printing request.

8. (Original) The method according to Claim 7,

wherein the executing step includes authenticating the ticket, and

wherein in the executing step the printing operation is executed when the ticket is authenticated in the authenticating step.

9. (Original) The method according to Claim 7,

wherein the one of issuing and transmitting step includes encrypting the issued ticket,

wherein one of the issuing and transmitting step includes transmitting the ticket to the print requesting client device after having been encrypted in an encrypting step,

wherein the executing step includes decrypting the encrypted ticket, and

wherein the executing step executes the printing operation after the encrypted ticket is decrypted in the decrypting step.

10. (Original) The method according to Claim 7,

wherein one of the issuing and transmitting steps include assigning an individual number to each ticket.

11. (Original) The method according to Claim 10,

wherein the assigning step includes issuing a random number as the individual

number of each ticket.

12-17. (Canceled).

18. (New) A print restriction apparatus, comprising:

a receiving section configured to receive, via a network, printing data from a client device of a user for printing on one of a plurality of printers connected to the network, the printing data including header information including at least

a user ID of the user,

a printer ID of the one of the plurality of printers, and

a printing condition specifying printing functions of the one of the plurality of printers; and

a registration section configured to register, for each user ID, print restriction information including a printer ID of each printer usable by the user, and printing functions of each printer usable by the user, each of the printing functions specified by the printing condition in the header information is included in the print restriction information registered for the user ID included in the header information, and each printing function is configured to issue a ticket allowing a use of the printer of the printer ID included in the

header information based on the received header information, and

transmit said ticket allowing use of the printer of the printer ID included in the header information to the client device of the user, said ticket including an instruction to the client device of the user to generate a printing request for the printer of the printer ID included in the header information to print the printing data, the printing request including the printing data, the header information, and the received ticket.